

Akim Monet Fine Arts, LLC



Artist UNKNOWN

Thurible

A rare ornate church incense burner, possibly French, or from Flanders
Silver metal alloy - evidence of "vert-de-gris" patina

Incense burner: $7 \frac{7}{8} \times 4 \frac{5}{16} \times 4 \frac{5}{16}$ in (20 x 11 x 11 cm)
Original chain: $35 \frac{1}{2}$ in (90 cm)

Circa 1880

PROVENANCE

Johannes Rammelt, Berlin

EXHIBITED

The Concrete & the Mystical, Winter 2012, Akim Monet Side by Side Gallery, Berlin
The Sacred Heart, Spring 2012, Akim Monet Side by Side Gallery, Berlin
Disruptive selection, Fall 2019, Popcorn Gallery Akim Monet Fine Arts, Los Angeles

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NOTES

Incense has been employed in worship by Christians since antiquity, particularly in the Orthodox Christian churches, the Roman Catholic Church/Eastern Catholic, Old Catholic/Liberal Catholic Churches and some Anglican and Lutheran Churches. Incense is being increasingly used among some other Christian groups as well, for example, the Book of Worship of The United Methodist Church calls for incense in the Evening Praise and Prayer service.

The practice is rooted in the earlier traditions of Judaism in the time of the Second Jewish Temple. The smoke of burning incense is interpreted by both the Western Catholic and Eastern Christian churches as a symbol of the prayer of the faithful rising to heaven. This symbolism is seen in Psalm 141, verse 2:

"Let my prayer be directed as incense in thy sight: the lifting up of my hands, as evening sacrifice."

Incense is often used as part of a purification ritual. In the Latin rite of the Roman Catholic Church, whenever the thurible is swung to incense people or objects, it is always done in groups of three swings (to represent the Three Persons of the Holy Trinity, God the Father, God the Son Jesus Christ, and God the Holy Spirit; the precise number depends on the level of sanctity of the object being revered, if a person being revered is alive or dead, and whether they are a cleric or a layperson, and if a cleric, their rank within the hierarchy).

In the Revelation of John, incense symbolizes the prayers of the saints in heaven - the ***"golden bowl full of incense"*** are ***"the prayers of the saints"*** (Revelation 5:8, cf. Revelation 8:3) which infuse upwards towards the altar of God.

A thurible, a type of censer, is used to contain incense as it is burned. A server called a thurifer, sometimes assisted by a "boat bearer" who carries the receptacle for the incense, approaches the person conducting the service with the thurible charged with burning bricks of red-hot charcoal. Incense, in the form of pebbly grains or powder, is taken from what is called a "boat", and usually blessed with a prayer and spooned onto the coals. The thurible is then closed, and taken by the chain and swung by the priest, deacon or server or acolyte towards what or whom is being censed: the bread and wine offered for the Eucharist, the consecrated Eucharist itself, the Gospel during its proclamation (reading), the crucifix, the icons (in Eastern churches), the clergy, the congregation, the Paschal candle or the body of a deceased person during a funeral.

Incense may be used in Christian worship at the celebration of the Eucharist, at solemn celebrations of the Divine Office, in particular at Solemn Vespers, at Solemn Evensong, at funerals, benediction and exposition of the Eucharist, the consecration of a church or altar and at other services. In the Orthodox Church, Anglo-Catholic, and Old Catholic/Liberal Catholic churches, incense is used at virtually every service.

Source: Wikipedia